

ER 60-3302/11

*Richard Nixon*

The Vice-President  
The Capitol  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Vice-President:

Thank you very much for the copies of the toasts that were made at the dinner for President and Madame DeGaulle which Mr. Hughes was so thoughtful to send me.

I was afraid that no record would be made of these talks and I am delighted to know that they are being preserved as I certainly consider them outstanding.

With every best wish.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles  
Director

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60-3302

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WASHINGTON

May 3, 1960

The Honorable Allen W. Dulles  
Director, Central Intelligence Agency  
2430 E Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

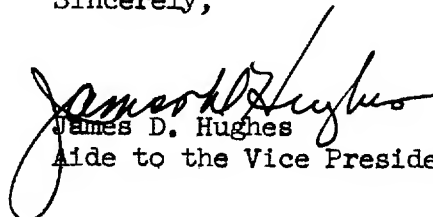
Dear Mr. Dulles:

Copies of the toasts at the dinner for President and Madame DeGaulle, when the Vice President and Mrs. Nixon had the pleasure of your company, have been reproduced to fill requests we have received.

I thought you and Mrs. Dulles also might like to have copies as a memento of the occasion, and they are enclosed.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

  
James D. Hughes  
Aide to the Vice President

Reply by  
The President of the Republic of France  
at the dinner in his honor  
Hotel Mayflower, Washington, D. C.  
April 23, 1960

I am somewhat embarrassed by the words that Vice President Nixon has just said about me. I am also impressed by all the high-ranking guests that he and Mrs. Nixon have gathered around us, and because of these mixed feelings I experience a certain embarrassment as I speak in my turn.

The Vice President spoke like the man he is, that is, like a strong personality, like a man upon whom rest great hopes, like a man who understands the past but has all the future before him. It is certainly necessary to respect the past, but it is also necessary to know that in itself the past is nothing, that in itself it is useless except for antiquarians, libraries, and museums, but it is true that the past is very important if men and nations find in the lessons of the past intelligent guidance for their actions and their efforts. In this respect, I think, and I tell you this as I think it, that America has known how to derive from her past, which is already fairly long, a great driving force, the effects of which are clearly visible.

America plays a major role at this time. Each nation in its turn has had the privilege to be the leader. Today it is the turn of the United States, but when one is the leader of world activities, one has serious duties, one has duties to oneself and to others. I take the liberty to say that the United States fulfill their duties because even though they are powerful, even very powerful right now, they know how to respect the liberty of others. This evening I would like to state that France acknowledges that fact. The capacity, the merit and the strength of the United States do not give umbrage to France. France herself, after having been held back a long time by the trials, which we know without my mentioning them, has resumed her march forward. She is once more on her way and she believes that her present and future accomplishments will be as useful to men as America's accomplishments.

In the Free World, the accomplishments of one nation do not harm the other nations. On the contrary, competition between our nations can only be useful to all our nations, but it is true that on the other side of a certain curtain a part of humanity would also like to reach the results which you and we have reached. We see no objection to that. If the competition in the world will be concerned with the standard of living, that will not disturb us and will not worry us. When the Soviets say, "We want to do as well as and better than the Americans," we do not see any objection. Yes, let the United States continue their efforts, France is perfectly satisfied, France too is taking her part in the forward march of the free world. She has the certainty that, thanks to you and partly thanks to herself, we are leading mankind and we are leading mankind, I am sure, toward a better destiny. I am sure that the future of the world will be liberty in prosperity.

Mr. Vice President, I raise my glass in your honor, in the honor of Mrs. Nixon, in honor of prosperity, in honor of the strength and greatness of America.

Toast of the Vice President of the United States  
at the dinner in honor of  
The President of the French Republic and Madame De Gaulle  
Hotel Mayflower, Washington, D. C.,  
April 23, 1960

Every American who has studied history knows that but for France there might not be a United States, and every American at this table and in this land knows that but for General De Gaulle there might not be a France today. Mr. President, Madame De Gaulle, and our friends from France and the United States, my wife and I are greatly honored to have you, Mr. President, and your very gracious first lady with us tonight.

This, as you have noted in the reception preceding this dinner, is a very diverse group. We have here Senators and Congressmen, Cabinet officers, other Government officials, representatives from the educational institutions of our country, of the newspapers and other communication media, and of the business community. We have representatives of both of our great political parties. While this group is diverse in these ways, it is unified and completely alike in one way--in love and affection for the people of France and your country, and in admiration and respect for you and for Madame De Gaulle, who has been by your side through the difficult days and now in these magnificent years of your leadership of France.

Every American has a bit of France in his heart. He knows some of the French language, the music, the literature. He knows too, in some instances, French fashion--when he can afford it for his wife--and all of these things mean France to him. But they do not mean nearly as much as something which you represent tonight so symbolically. France has meaning for the American people because of the spirit of France which you have kept alive through your career.

I was reading recently a report from one of our Paris correspondents, representing a New York newspaper, of an interview that he had with you immediately after World War II. You were quoted in that interview as saying something to this effect: "The age of giants has passed, but they will come again because great circumstances bring forth great men." And then you quoted from Sophocles to this effect: "One must wait until the evening to see how splendid the day has been." It is still the middle of a glorious day for you, as far as your leadership is concerned, but the world and this company need not wait until the evening to know that now we have seen a giant leading his country and working with us for the cause of peace and freedom to which we are both dedicated.

And so tonight I know that all of us are privileged and honored to join in drinking to your health, to you and through you to the nation and people that you so splendidly represent, to the President of the French Republic.